(b) Total vendible pithead coal stock with Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 1.2.2000 is 22.60 million tonnes (data provisional).

(c) There is no retrenchment in CIL on account of coal imports in the country.

(d) No Inter-Ministerial Group has been formed on the retrenchment issue.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Promotion of marble industry of Rajasthan

†2218. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan have requested the Central Government to remove necessity of having mineral scheme for low value minerals like quartz, felspar, silica sand, clay, calcite, mica, yellow okar, red okar etc;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government on it;

(c) whether Government are in favour of reducing excise duty for encouraging and promoting marble industry of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise.

(c) and (d) The excise duty rates for all items including those for marble are laid down by the Government as part of the annual Budgetary exercise. However the Government has constituted a Group on Marble development (GMD) in September 1999 to encourage promotion of marble mining and industry.

Aluminium ingot price increased by NALCO

2219. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) has increased the price of aluminium ingot;

(b) if so, since when; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.